Data:

We now have **260** high schools and ATCs registered for Imagine Academy in KY!

Make sure you are also a testing site with Certiport so your students can certify!

Stay Connected:

[KYIA webpage](#)

[Microsoft IA Blog](#)

[Microsoft EduCast Webinar Series](#)

[KY's Certiport webpage](#)

Follow KY IA on Twitter [@KYITAcademy](#)

Laura Raganas, KY IA Program Manager
laura.raganas@education.ky.gov

Megan Hochstatter, Microsoft Deployment Manager
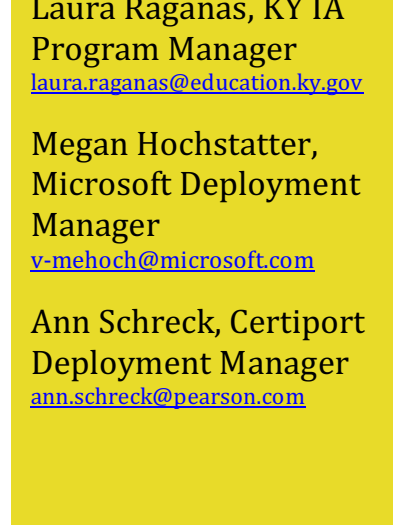v-mehoch@microsoft.com

Ann Schreck, Certiport Deployment Manager
ann.schreck@pearson.com

Microsoft Imagine Academy

LEARN IT. PROVE IT.

Microsoft Imagine Academy helps you build real world skills and earn your Microsoft Certification!

1 Take Training
2 Get Certified
3 Expand Your Potential

Online Learning for the Winter Term

The Imagine Academy Online Learning is a great fit for Kentucky's Non-Traditional Instruction days (sometimes referred to as your school's "snow day" program). What better way to keep your students learning and supplement your instruction while they are home during those inclement weather days! Don't forget about this fantastic resource that is available to you and your students.

No better way to kick off a new year than to get to work with some great teachers at the recent training in Bowling Green at South Warren High School!

Kentucky School for the Blind earned certification in Microsoft Word 2010.

The 2016 MOS U.S. National Championship

The Microsoft Office Specialist U.S. National Championship presented by Certiport, Inc. is a competition that tests students' skills on Microsoft Office Excel®, Word and PowerPoint® (2010 or 2013). Top students will be invited to represent Kentucky at the U.S. National Championship. When you take an exam in Excel, Word, or PowerPoint (2010 or 2013), you will automatically be entered to qualify and compete! Kentucky's fall qualifiers are:

Excel 2013: Larry Ryle High
Word 2013: Larry Ryle High
PowerPoint 2013: Montgomery Co. ATC
Excel 2010: Greenup Co. ATC
Word 2010: Paul Laurence Dunbar High
PowerPoint 2010: Greenup Co. ATC
(*Student names to be announced soon once release forms are completed.)

Get your students prepared and testing for the Spring Qualifier!

Monthly "Office Hours"

One Tuesday per month, 3:30 – 4:30 ET, Microsoft, Certiport and Laura will be on a Skype call for you to ask questions, get ideas and collaborate. If you need access to the link to the call, please email Laura.

Certiport's Mandatory Console 8 update

Certiport recently released a mandatory update to our delivery engine, Console, version 8.5   This is a very important update that will help your tests be delivered more efficiently and securely.

Some centers, however, MAY experience technical difficulties when updating testing machines.

Please send this notification to your technical support team to insure they are familiar with the following requirements for this latest mandatory update:

1. All test machines MUST comply with our technical requirements found here:
   http://www.certiport.com/portal/desktopdefault.aspx?page=common/pagelibrary/techRequirements.htm
2. All test machines must have all our required domain names **whitelisted**: These are:
   a. www.certiport.com
   b. downloads.certiport.com
   c. certprep.certiport.com
   d. myspeed.certiport.com
   e. verify.certiport.com
3. If you experience problems due to
   a. possible proxy server settings and limitations:
   b. firewall settings and limitations:
   c. virus protection settings
   You may need to **whitelist** Certiport specific IP addresses.   These can be found at:
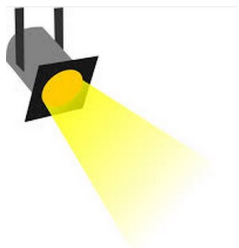   http://www.certiport.com/Portal/desktopdefault.aspx?tabid=755&roleid=23#C850

You will need to log into your Certiport account to access.

This should resolve your potential issues. We are excited about this new update to Console 8 and look forward to helping you deliver all Certiport exams quickly and easily.

Thank you for your support and Happy New Year!

Certiport Operations

Spotlight:

Clark County ATC and George Rogers Clark High School

Story by Robbie Barnes at Clark County ATC and Bonnie Bradley at George Rogers Clark High
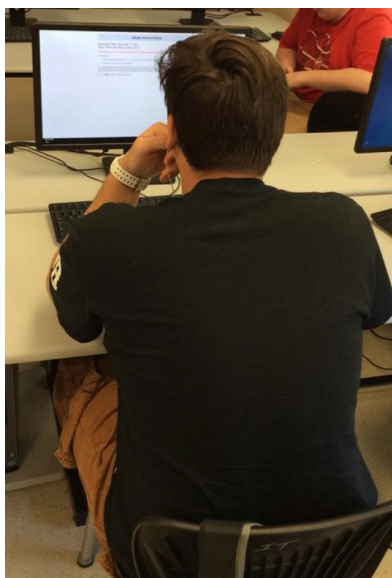
We are experiencing great success this year in Clark County with the resources made available to us through the Imagine Academy. Our students are testing in Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPoint with a great passage rate as of late. We started out testing them this year before they were ready, and quickly learned that we need to make sure we don't just take the students at their word for them to sit for a certification exam. We now make certain that they are passing the GMetrix practice tests at a rate of 80 percent or better before we allow them to test.

We have aligned the Imagine Academy curriculum and resources with our task list as well as the program area core content. The best advice we can give is: "Monitor, monitor, monitor. Never sit down! Work with your students one-on-one. Imagine Academy and GMetrix is a fantastic combination for student success!"

Here's what some of our students say:

 "The MOS certification will help me with my future career in computer science. It is a good feeling to be college- and career-ready for the Class of 2016!" – Chandler English

"MOS was a great sense of accomplishment. The certification will help me to achieve success in college." – Austin Spicer

Data Points for December:

The number of schools signed up for membership: 260

The number of registered testing centers: 228

The number of Excel certifications for the month: 289

The number of Excel certification year-to-date: 722

The number of MTA certifications for the month: 20

The number of MTA certifications year-to-date: 96

The number of online courses started: 25,898

The number of online courses completed: 7,546

The top 10 certifying sites:

1. Clark Co. ATC	6. Paul Laurence Dunbar High, Fayette Co.
2. Breckinridge Co. ATC	7. Hart Co. High
3. Dixie Heights High, Kenton Co.	8. North Bullitt Co. High
4. Highlands High, Ft. Thomas Ind.	9. Simon Kenton High, Kenton Co.
5. Larry Ryle High, Boone Co.	10. Bath Co. High

Is your school listed here?

MOS Master Certifications

School	Name	Teacher/Student
Marion County High	Dylan Tungate	Teacher
Dixie Heights High	Michael Smeltzer	Student
Pulaski County High	Mike Crowhurst	Teacher
Simon Kenton High	Katelyn Taylor	Student
Simon Kenton High	Christopher Welch	Student
Simon Kenton High	Kathryn Johnson	Student
Simon Kenton High	Johnathan Hawkins	Student
Montgomery County ATC	Greyson Cox	Student

KDE's KY IA Website!

Check out the Microsoft Resources folder and the Certiport Resources folder-they both have lots of "how to" documents that will help you navigate the Imagine Academy site. There is also a new webinar available: "**Webinar for the New Imagine Academy website**" you may want to watch.